U.S. Department of Energy

E-Government Act Report

Fiscal Year 2005

T a b l e   o f   C o n t e n t s

Section 1: Overview of DOE's Implementation of the Act

DOE implements eGovernment through:

- **The Innovative Department of Energy E-Government Applications (IDEA) Program**: In order to identify eGovernment opportunities, DOE developed and implemented the Innovative Department of Energy E-Government Applications (IDEA) program. The purpose of the IDEA program is to identify new eGovernment initiatives and investments. DOE originally identified nineteen initiatives as part of IDEA. Two of the initiatives are now completed. Beginning in FY 2006, DOE will begin conducting semi-annual Strategic Portfolio Reviews to ensure the Department's existing information technology investments are in line with its strategic goals and missions as well as to identify the next generation of IDEA initiatives.
- **Other eGovernment Initiatives:** In addition to the Department-wide IDEA Program, DOE's program offices are focused on identifying and deploying eGovernment solutions. For example, the Office of Scientific and Technical Information supports the development of Science.gov. Science.gov was developed by an interagency working group comprised of seventeen scientific and technical information organizations from twelve major science agencies to enhance access to science information. These agencies are committed to the information needs of the citizen, including science professionals, students, educators, business entrepreneurs, and members of the public with an interest in science. The Science.gov web site makes more than 47 million pages of government research and development project results available to the public.
- **Implementation of a Robust Information Technology Governance Structure**: OCIO has established an IT governance structure and process that enables sound management of all IT assets. Part of this process is to ensure that all major IT investments within the Department are justified with strong business cases that detail how these investments support the Department's overarching strategic plan, further the Enterprise Architecture, and implement eGovernment. The Department is also launching an enterprise IT acquisition program that will govern Departmental IT acquisitions in accordance with SmartBUY, as well as other e-Government initiatives and Departmental cyber security and business requirements.
- **Participation in government-wide efforts**: DOE participates in nineteen of the twenty-four government-wide eGovernment initiatives. The Department supports four of the six Federal Lines of Business. As part of this support, DOE is a managing partner (along with the Department of Labor) in the Financial Management Line of Business. DOE is currently implementing migration milestones and aligning its IT investments to the government-wide investments in accordance with the Department's OMB-approved eGov plan.

***Example of Participation in Government-wide Efforts:* Electronic Voluntary Protection Program (eVPP)**
DOE's Voluntary Protection Program is a part of a government-wide effort to promote improved safety and health performance through public recognition of outstanding voluntary safety programs. The focus of the Voluntary Protection Program at DOE is radiation protection, nuclear management and emergency management. The web-based Electronic Voluntary Protection Program (eVPP) promulgates DOE orders, shares knowledge about health and safety protection at a site, and provides management systems for preventing and controlling occupational hazards. eVPP supports field activities by greatly simplifying and reducing the workload in preparing, transmitting and amending applications to the program.

Describe how the initiative is transforming agency operations. The main objectives of eVPP are to simplify and reduce the workload for business partners in preparing, transmitting and amending applications to the program.

Explain how your agency maintains an ongoing dialogue with interested parties to find innovative ways to use information technology for the initiative. The Voluntary Protection Programs Participants' Association (VPPPA), a non-profit organization made up of the 1200 private sector corporations in the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA's) program, recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with DOE regarding the use of this system. In addition, the twenty-four (24) State governments which operate their own occupational safety and health programs are interested in pursuing the use of DOE's eVPP system.

Identify external partners who collaborate on the initiative. This program is operated jointly by the Department and the Voluntary Protection Programs Participants' Association (VPPPA). The association, through its established outreach program, partners with private-sector firms who desire recognition under this program. DOE, EPA and VPPPA work closely with OSHA in the development and implementation of this program. In addition, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations and Environment asked for the complete system to be used by the Department of the Army; and the Defense Logistics Agency of the Department of Defense asked for the complete system to help in the implementation of VPP at equipment depots in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Identify improved performance by tracking performance measures supporting agency objectives and strategic goals. The establishment of this web site has generated improvements in the following areas: improved labor/management relations, reduced workplace injuries and illnesses, increased employee involvement, improved morale, reduced absenteeism and public recognition.

Quantify the cost savings and cost avoidance achieved through implementing the initiative. The eVPP system is a business management approach that permits the preparation and submission of applications for eVPP recognition; submission of required annual reports and report responses; and the reporting, trending and evaluation of participant performance data via the Internet. In the past, the application process took weeks of arduous work and resulted in an application containing hundreds of documents. By delivering a web-based solution, eVPP eliminates the time and resources spent on submissions and reporting by three-fourths. Estimated cost savings and cost avoidance are not available at this time since the system is not fully operational.

How DOE ensures the availability of Government information and services for those without access to the Internet and for those with disabilities. The system is server based and can be accessed via internet or intranet. The eVPP is expected to be 508 compliant when the system is released as an operational system (Currently the system is in beta version for phases 1 and 2.)

Section 2: Process for Determining Which Information Will Be Made Available on the Internet

This section of the report highlights the process DOE has established for determining which information will be made available on the Energy.gov website and all ancillary websites managed by the agency.

Describe the process for determining which Government information the agency intends to make available and accessible to the public on the Internet and by other means. DOE developed a 3-step process to determine what information will be made available to the public through the Internet.

Step 1 - Identify the audience. The Department determines audiences by listing and ranking the audiences by who does visit the agency website, who should visit the agency website, and/or who might visit the agency website.

Step 2 - Develop an inventory of information by answering questions for each audience group:

- What does this audience group want to know about this agency?
- What does this agency need to tell this audience group?

Step 3 - Review the resulting list of information items to determine which inventory items already exist on the website, exist in another format but not on the website, or require development.

Include a copy of the priorities and schedules for making your information available and accessible. Each item is then ranked using the following priorities:

- **Priority 1:** Required by law, regulation, Presidential directive, or other directive or to ensure national security
- **Priority 2:** Mission-critical and essential for program operations, but not required by law, regulation, or Presidential directive.
- **Priority 3:** Frequently requested information or services that would improve organization business processes and/or customer service to the public.
- **Priority 4:** Other information

Explain how and when such final determinations, priorities, and schedules were available for public notice and comment. The priorities and schedules for the agency website were posted to www.energy.gov for public comment. The priorities and schedules for the Department's Program Office websites were made available for public comment by the statutory December 17, 2004 due date. DOE has not received any public comments to date. However, the public are still encouraged to provide any comments they may have in the future.

Provide a link where final determinations, priorities, and schedules can be found on your principle federal agency public website. The priorities and schedules for the agency website are posted to http://www.energy.gov/webpolicies.htm.

Identify progress to date for permitting searching of all files intended for public use on the website, displaying search results in order of relevancy to search criteria, and providing response times appropriately equivalent to industry best practices. DOE has recently undertaken a redesign of the departmental website. As part of this project, implementation of a Google Search Appliance will permit searching all of DOE's websites and the search results to be displayed in order of relevancy to the search criteria. The launch date of the new site and search capability is scheduled for November 1, 2005.